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Committee for Programme and Coordination
Forty-third session
9 June-3 July 2003
Agenda item 9
Adoption of the report of the Committee on its forty-third session

Rapporteur: Mr. Jerry **Kramer** (Canada)

Addendum

Programme questions: evaluation

(Item 4 (c))

Proposed evaluation themes

1. At its 2nd and 3rd meetings on 9 June 2003, the Committee for Programme and Coordination considered the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the proposed evaluation themes (E/AC.51/2003/2).

2. The representative of the Office of Internal Oversight Services introduced the report. Representatives of the Office responded to the questions raised during the Committee's consideration of the report.

Discussion

3. The proposal to conduct thematic evaluations on a pilot basis was welcomed as innovative and valuable. The evaluations would fill a gap by providing a systematic review of activities that required concomitant actions by several programmes of the organizations. Agreement was expressed on the criteria for selecting the thematic evaluations, which follow the criteria used for selecting in-depth evaluations. It was noted that the criteria could be refined with experience. The consultative approach to choosing the themes to be considered by the Committee was also welcomed. It was noted that the two themes proposed, namely, integrated water management and post-conflict peace-building, were of high priority and interest.

4. Diverse views were expressed on which theme to select. It was observed that any of the topics listed in table 1 of the report could be selected. Strong interest was

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expressed in favour of choosing the topic of integrated water management, in light of the recent priority accorded the subject in the United Nations Millennium Declaration and the World Summit on Sustainable Development.

5. Substantial interest was also expressed in the second topic, post-conflict peace-building. As the Office of Internal Oversight Services could not undertake two thematic evaluations at the same time, it was suggested that this topic could be resubmitted for consideration by the Committee at a later date.

6. The view was expressed that water is only one of many issues and that there might be merit to considering a topic such as poverty.

7. Concern was expressed at the possibility that the pilot thematic evaluation report might not be available in time for review by the different relevant intergovernmental bodies and processes before the report was considered by the Committee, should the Committee consider that report at its forty-fourth session in 2004. Clarification was requested as to the specifics of the regulations and rules that govern the timing of the Committee's consideration of evaluation reports, in relation to their consideration by the intergovernmental bodies concerned with the specific programme areas.

8. It was noted that in recent years, the Millennium Summit, the World Summit on Sustainable Development, the Monterrey Consensus, the Third World Water Forum and Ministerial Conference held in Japan in March 2003 and the G-8 action plan on water had addressed the issue of water. The view was expressed that water was essential to life and human security and that it was important for all countries to promote good governance and capacity-building to pursue an appropriate water policy. Integrated water management was seen as a cross-cutting theme that would contribute to the attainment of the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development.

9. It was also noted that the issue of water was critical to pursuing the goals of the United Nations Millennium Declaration. Since it was a basic service and, as stated in the report, since progress in the management of freshwater had been neither sufficient nor comprehensive, measures needed to be enhanced in order to achieve the goal.

10. The view was expressed that the evaluation would be taken into account in the deliberations of the Commission on Sustainable Development which would take up water as a main agenda item in 2004. To the extent possible, the evaluation should, in turn, take account of the deliberations at the Commission.

Conclusions and recommendations

11. **The Committee decided to defer to its forty-fourth session the selection of a topic for thematic evaluation, for submission to the Committee for Programme and Coordination at its forty-fifth session and subsequently to be reviewed for its usefulness at its forty-sixth session.**

12. **The Committee also decided to request the Office of Internal Oversight Services to further develop topics by elaborating the precise and comprehensive context, objective, scope, methodology and intended utilization of the findings of proposals for a pilot evaluation project.**